

# The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2005

### Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

#### **Present:**

Ballantyne, Todd  
Blanchard, Richard  
Bowers, Mike  
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)  
Gaskill, Steve  
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)  
Perkins, Ernie  
Potts, Dan  
Proctor, Travis  
Sorensen, Ryan (Secretary)  
Staley, John

### Old Business

#### **Walk-in Access Results from RAC Meetings**

There was a unanimous acceptance of the Walk-in Access Program from all the RAC meetings.

#### **Youth Chukar Hunt**

The Youth Chukar Hunt will be held Sept. 10 at the Henefer-Echo Wildlife Management Area (WMA). 30 youth have been selected to participate, 15 in the morning and 15 in the afternoon. The committee suggested having 15-20 volunteers, each of which requires a background check. If you are interested in volunteering email Ernie Perkins [erperkins@comcast.net](mailto:erperkins@comcast.net) or Travis Proctor [travis.proctor@nebo.edu](mailto:travis.proctor@nebo.edu). More information about the hunt can be found in the 2005-2006 Upland Game Hunting Guide at [http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/proclamations/2005-06\\_upland\\_game/2005-06\\_upland\\_game.pdf](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/proclamations/2005-06_upland_game/2005-06_upland_game.pdf)

#### **Chukar Guzzler Study Update**

**By** Ernie Perkins

Well, the study is off and running. We have shifted gears this year & are trying to capture, band, and put transmitters on as many birds as possible - so as to monitor individual bird use of a complex of guzzlers. This would include a lot more photos to capture frequency of individual bird use (with and without broods), and movement of birds between the guzzlers (which are 1/2 to 1 mile apart).

We've had a few frustrations with equipment, supplies, late hatches, trap designs, and weather, but we have already learned quite a bit and will be much better positioned (knowledgeable) for a great study year in 2006.

A couple of the frustrations include capture of many small birds that our bands were too large for (we now have a smaller size of band for them); also a couple of planned max trapping efforts have been unproductive when untimely rains greatly reduced guzzler use.

We have however noted that there is a good population of birds in the study area. Several renests have apparently taken place, as we still are seeing very small, young birds that can barely fly, along with older chicks that are almost adult sized and marked. The banded, and birds with transmitters appear to stay very close to the one guzzler that they were originally trapped at. The only exception is one bird with a transmitter which has wandered to a second

guzzler and back, and is frequently noted 1/4 to 1/2 mile from his "home" guzzler. Some of the volunteers have wondered if that bird is a male & the other transmitted birds are females - a good question, one of many.

So far the cameras have taken about 5,000 pictures, and we will probably have about 10,000 by the time the cameras are taken out in mid October. Some undergraduate student(s) are going to be busy a long time analyzing all of those pictures to identify individual birds and all the data that has been collected.

As an aside, if any of our members shoot a banded bird this year, it would provide invaluable info to the study if the legs were marked L & R and saved, and GPS coordinates of the location were provided. If GPS is not available, a good verbal description is of some value. Also, if you really want to help the foundation and this study, you might consider moving elsewhere if you take a banded bird; the reason is that we are really hoping to have some banded and transmitted birds still alive at the beginning of the breeding season next year.

### **Deseret Land and Livestock Sage-grouse Brood Count Update**

There has been generous support from volunteers to assist this project. During observations, adults have been located, but few chicks have been found. This study will provide very valuable information applicable to statewide sagebrush steppe & watershed restoration efforts. Initial ideas for next year include expanding the area and counting only in the mornings.

## **New Business**

### **Youth Pheasant Hunt**

Areas are being prepared for the upcoming youth pheasant hunts. Further discussion will take place in future meetings.

### **Chukar Transplant 2005**

During the week of Sept 12-16, approximately 4,000 pen-reared birds will be distributed across the state. Roughly 800 will be released in each region.

## **Upland Game on the Internet**

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

## **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sep. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

The agenda will include work on revising the Upland Game Master Plan, and planning for the Youth Chukar Hunt.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an e-mail input, please send it to:

Dean Mitchell [deanmitchell@utah.gov](mailto:deanmitchell@utah.gov)  
Jim Gaskill [jhgaskill@weber.edu](mailto:jhgaskill@weber.edu)

Ryan Sorensen [ryan@mybirddog.com](mailto:ryan@mybirddog.com)

Respectfully submitted ...  
Ryan Sorensen